

5/22/77

MEMO: re Secret Service 4/16/64 memo on X-ray viewing boxes
by Howard Roffman
to Harold Weisberg

When I got your brief memo of 5/17/77 about this SS memo, I had not yet received the document itself. However, I raised an eyebrow because you got the date of the autopsy doctors' testimony wrong. You thought it was 4/15 or 16. It was 3/16/64 (3H347)

Now that I have the memo itself, it is pretty clear to me that it refers to the Connally X rays, not the JFK ones. Note that Kelley never specifies what X rays would be viewed on the boxes. He refers only to the Commission's request for 2 x-ray viewing boxes, needed on April 21. Also, as you note, he speaks of returning them to BETHesda at the conclusion of the hearings on April 21.

The Parkland Doctors Shaw and Gregory testified before the Commission in Washington on April 21. The JBC X rays were there. At one point in the testimony, Specter begins questioning Shaw about the X rays and says "May the record show we have available a viewer for the X-rays." (4H106) Of course, Specter's reference is in the singular. I do not think it precludes the possibility that there were 2 viewers in the hearing room.

I also do not think it is particularly unusual that the SS would have gone to Bethesda or Boswell to get the viewing box. It was a local hospital and the WC at least were acquainted with some of the personnel there, including Boswell. Note that the 4/16 memo says only that Boswell would make the boxes available to the SS on 4/20, not that he would accompany the boxes.

I welcome refutation, but am fairly well persuaded that this memo does not relate to Kelley's arranging a viewing of the JFK X-rays.

HR